

Mounts winners despite title loss

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Correspondent

The Dallas High School football team had a hard time stopping the Valley View Cougars in the Eastern Conference football championship last Saturday in Peckville. And after their disappointing 34-13 loss, they had an equally hard time controlling their emotions.

It was a tough loss for a Dallas team that put itself among the elite Class AA teams in the state this season and was one of the better teams to ever wear a Mountaineer uniform.

The Mountaineers finished the 1992 season with an overall record of 11-2 and as co-champions of the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II. The 11 wins mark the most wins by a Dallas team in the Ted Jackson era.

The Cougars rode two special team plays to touchdowns in the second quarter and stellar tailback Russ Canaveri broke off two big runs to yardage in the third quarter as Valley View raised their record to 13-0.

Jackson knows that his team was simply outplayed on Saturday.

"They (Valley View) played an outstanding game," Jackson said. "They played great on offense, defense and on special teams. They were definitely the best team we've played all season and I think they were the best team we've ever played in the Eastern Conference championships."

Because of the special bond between Jackson and this year's group of seniors, the loss was even more difficult.

"Some of the looks on the kids' faces when they were receiving their medals made me sick to my stomach," Jackson added. "These were some of the hardest working kids to ever play here at Dallas. They're a fun group to coach. They played hard and they practiced hard. There's not much more that a coach can ask for."

While the final score will most likely be remembered for years to come, there were other numbers posted by this year's edition of the



DALLAS SENIORS - Senior members of the 1992 Dallas High School Division II co-champion football team are, kneeling, from left, Tom Bolesta, Chris Updyke, Todd Paczewski, Al Brzezinski, Joe Voitek. Standing, from left, Chris Thomas, Brian Burd, Joe Kelley, Jim Moran, Dave Fisher, Tom Adams, Tim Dewey. (Post photo/Ron Bartizek)

Mountaineers that will not soon be forgotten.

Senior tailback Brian Burd (86 yards against Valley View) finished the season with 1,632 yards rushing on 312 carries. Burd, who finished his career with more than 3,500 rushing yards (A Dallas school record), also had 23 receptions for 211 yards and he scored 17 touchdowns. Throw in kickoff return yards and Burd goes over the 2,000-yard mark in total offense. Burd led the WVC Division II in rushing, rushing attempts and scoring.

"He is just phenomenal," Jackson said of Burd. "He was the key to our success. He was durable. He returned kickoffs, punts, played defense and carried the ball 30 times a game if we needed it. He is an outstanding athlete."

Senior receivers Dave Fisher and Todd Paczewski finished 2-3 in the WVC in receiving yards. Fisher hauled in 36 passes for 559 yards while Paczewski caught 35 passes for 503 yards. Fisher had 19 rushes

for 234 yards while Paczewski scored nine touchdowns, kicked 21 extra-points and two field goals for 81 points.

It was tough for Fisher, who has been playing since his freshman season, to leave the locker room for the last time.

"I was just sitting there thinking about not being able to play for him again," Fisher said of Jackson. "The past four years he's always led the WVC Division II in almost every passing category, completing 115 of 219 passes for 1,601 yards and 18 touchdowns. Brady's 18 touchdowns were nearly double that of his nearest competitor and he threw just eight interceptions

this season. But the Mountaineers would be there. I told him that I was honored to play for him. I miss it already."

GAME NOTES: Despite the near 50-degree temperatures, the turnout by the Dallas fans was far from spectacular. By the end of the game only a handful of Dallas fans remained in the stands to give the Mounts a well-deserved standing ovation...Fisher made an incredible catch over VV's George Howanitz for Dallas's second score. Howanitz is considered one of the best athletes in the Big 11...The win by VV was their eighth EC title, a conference record...Can the Mountaineers return to the EC playoffs next year? Well, despite the loss of Burd, Paczewski and Fisher, the Mounts have a solid nucleus returning. The Mountaineers junior varsity team went undefeated, posting a 9-0 record and the junior high school team finished in a tie for the regular season title with GAR.

All the stars names weren't always in the headlines

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Correspondent

For Dallas High School football fans the names Brian Burd, Todd Paczewski, Dave Fisher and Brian Brady roll off the tongue with relative ease.

And with good reason. The quartet combined to put together some outstanding numbers during the Mountaineers chase for the Eastern Conference title.

But a closer inspection of this year's Wyoming Valley Conference Division II co-champion team reveals players who performed without the ink and spotlight, but with the same amount of intensity and success.

Here, then, is a look at the unsung heroes of this year's Dallas football team:

CHRIS UPDYKE: The 5-9, 185-pound senior linebacker is the epitome of what hard work and dedication can do. The leader of one of the state's best defenses, Updyke shattered the school record for most tackles in a season, registering more than 150 hits. Updyke played hurt through much of the season but didn't miss a game.

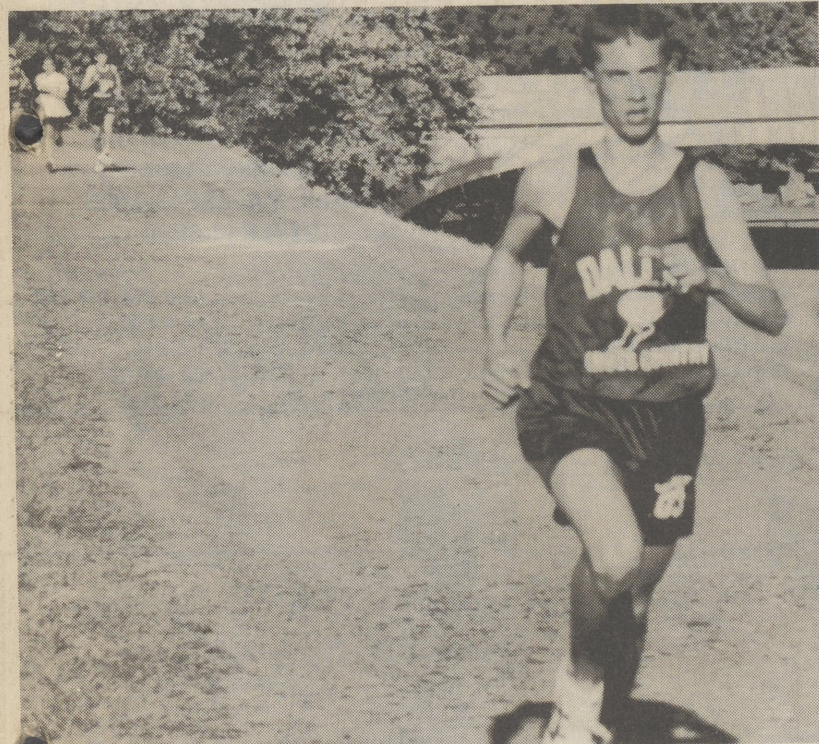
TOM BOLESTA: Pound for pound, the 5-8, 185-pound Bolesta was one of the strongest players on the team, bench pressing more than 300 pounds. Bolesta was also a steady performer for head coach Ted Jackson and while he was at center, there was not one fumble between himself and quarterback Brian Brady.

JIM MORAN: Early in the season Jackson called Moran the most improved player on the team. The 6-2, 220-pound senior was a steady performer at the tight end position, blocking well and making some clutch catches, including a touchdown against Coughlin. Moran also excelled on special teams and played solid defense when called upon.

TOM ADAMS: While Burd was running roughshod over the league, gaining more than 1,600 yards, it was Adams who was helping to pave the way. The 5-10, 185-pound guard played 30 pounds more than his size and helped to fill in for Burd at outside linebacker when he was hurt.

JOE KELLEY: After a slow start Kelley finished with a flourish, posting some very impressive numbers from his defensive end position. A first-year starter, the 6-2, 180-pound Kelley was one of the more underrated players in the conference. His numbers merit all-conference consideration.

BILL SILVI, TONY CHIARUCCI, HARRY GULICH, SCOTT FRANCIS, JOHN McNEIL AND CLARK VAN ORDEN: While Ted Jackson is quick to get praise for the success of the Mountaineers, these guys are the backbone of the Dallas football program. Silvi is nothing short of an offensive genius, molding standout Dallas quarterbacks year after year. Chiarucci has done an outstanding job with the offensive and defensive lines while Francis did an outstanding job with the backs and receivers. With scouting trips, long hours of watching film and practice, these guys put in long hours for little pay and even less recognition. It takes a special person to be an assistant coach and these guys are just that - special.



HEADED FOR NATIONALS - Matt Samuel is shown above during his run for the District 2, Class AA cross country title earlier this year. Samuel will run in the AAU national championship race December 5 in Bensalem.

Samuel qualifies for AAU National Cross Country meet

Matt Samuel qualified for the Amateur Athletic Union National Cross Country Championships on Saturday at the Middle Atlantic Championships held at Upper Perkiomen, Pa. Samuel was part of a local group of runners from the Scranton area that took first in the high school boys race and thus qualified for the National Championship race which is to be held on December 5 at Bensalem, Pa.

Runners from around the country compete each year in regional 5k races, then meet at a designated race at the end of the year. Last year's meet was held in Alabama, but this year's race offers the opportunity for some local race fans to view this national championship race since it will be held in the Philadelphia area.

Matt Byrne of Scranton High School placed first in Saturday's race, with Matt Rossetti also of Scranton, Samuel of Dallas High School, Jim Finans of North Pocono also being members of the winning

team. Samuel was the District AA Cross Country winner and also was first team all-state at the state championships. He travels to Van Cortland Park this weekend to compete in the Kinney Regional meet as well, with qualifiers there going to the Kinney Nationals at San Diego, California.

Steve Oliver, a previous Dallas graduate now running at Penn State, was the only area runner ever to qualify for the Kinney Nationals, where he finished in the top 15 runners and thereby became an "All-American" runner. Local young runners will have an opportunity to also compete in some age-group races since the inception of a running organization started locally by Coach Dick Daniels of Tunkhannock. This group will be making announcements next year concerning local area runs for all youth age groups and hopes to become affiliated with the A.A.U. as a local Wyoming Valley chapter in the near future.

Lady Knights must overcome obstacles

By CHRISTINA CONRAD
Sports Correspondent

The 1992-93 Lake-Lehman Girls' Basketball team returns this season without three of its starters from last year.

But head coach Joe Martini says the Knights have a nice core of seven players who will be looked upon to carry the team.

Martini has two returning senior starters in Dyan Dymond and Cherub Honeywell. There will be at least five girls to fill in the other

Girls' Basketball PREVIEW

three spots. They will be Heather Gray, switching with Dymond at the guard position. Jessica Hynick will give relief to Honeywell at center. And, Johanna Miller, Deb Coslett and Amy Rogers will rotate the forward positions.

Martini said of his seven, "These seven girls with the most experience will have to do well if we are to have any success."

Three-way tie at top of rec basketball league

The Lion Inc. upset the previous undefeated Fieldhouse 81-74 in double overtime in the Dallas Adult Basketball League.

Bill Cuff led the winners with 23 including 5 in the second overtime. Tony Welgosh helped the cause with 19, Charlie Lamoreaux 16 and Tom Hession 13.

Mark Farrell took high scoring honors for The Fieldhouse with 24. The Lion improves to 1-3 while The Fieldhouse drops to 3-1.

The Greyhounds slid back into a tie for first place by nipping Casey's 61-55. Rick Coslett led the winners with 14 and teammates Dan Muser and Rick Crocker added 13.

Pat Flaherty had a fine game with 27 for Casey's and Jim Lister added 11. The Greyhounds improve to 3-1 while Casey's drops to 0-4.

Humphrey's rode the red hot shooting of Frank Debona to garner their third win of the season and a share of first place in a win

over Hozey's 94-64. Debona had 34 points including an incredible 28 in the first half. Jim Jaster 16 points, Mike Carey 13, Mike Hozey, 12 and Nafty Hage 11 points all helped the winning effort.

Jim Seamon had 23 and Brian Ash 22 for Hozey's. Humphrey's is now 3-1 while Hozey's drops to 2-2.

Play continues on Sunday, Dec. 6, with 3 games at Dallas High School beginning at 1:30.

STANDINGS	
The Greyhounds	3-1
Humphrey's	3-1
Fieldhouse	3-1
Hozey's	2-2
The Lion Inc.	1-3
Casey's	0-4

Schedule for Dec. 6.
 1:30 - Humphrey's vs. The Fieldhouse
 2:30 - The Lion Inc. vs. Casey's
 3:30 - Hozey's vs. The Greyhounds

Along with the loss of three starters to graduation the Knights also have to contend with one of the toughest pre-season schedules. They will play at least one state championship winner at Pottsville Nativity. Also, in the regular season the Knights will face the powerhouse teams of Bishop O'Reilly, Meyers, and possibly Hanover and GAR.

"This should be a year with a lot of good kids coming up," Martini said of the competition.

"Every game is going to be a big game this season. We have the toughest pre-season schedule we've ever had since I have been here. It should help us. We'll have no walk overs," the coach said.

The Knights have a tough beginning of the season but if the core seven players that Martini is relying on develop enough and peak at the right time of the season they could very well be in the playoffs this year.

"We have to come out fast for early success in league play this year. It is going to be tough," said Martini.

Send The Post to a friend.
It makes a great gift.

Our Christmas Open House

Come Celebrate on
Dec. 5th & Dec. 6th
Saturday and Sunday
12 to 5 p.m.

Send your sports reports
to The Post at
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612